

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-05 /083 W

----- 055221

R 290805Z MAR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1814

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SY

SUBJECT: IRAQI ATTACKS AGAINST SYRIA CONTINUE

REF: BAGHDAD 253

1. WELL ORCHESTRATED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST SYRIA
NOW CONCENTRATING ON SYRIA'S "INHUMAN BLOCKING OF EUPHRATES
WATERS WHICH THREATENS LIVES OF THREE MILLION IRAQI PEASANTS
AND THEIR CATTLE AND EXPOSES THEIR LANDS TO RUIN". TRADE
UNIONS AND OTHER POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS CALLED UPON TO
EXPOSE SYRIAN MOTIVES.

2. MOST DETAILED DENUNCIACTION MADE IN PRESS CONFERENCE
MARCH 25 BY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION TALABANI WHICH BROAD-
CAST ON BAGHDAD RADIO. HE GAVE STATISTICS ON DECREASED
WATER FLOW AND ACCUSED SYRIA OF VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL LAW
AND PREVIOUSLY CONCLUDED ACCORDS (ASSUME TEXT IN FBIS).
HEAD OF RCC ECONOMIC BUREAU FAKRI QADDOURI STRONGLY DENOUNC-

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ED SYRIA'S ACTION AND PREVIOUS ACTS IMPOSING UNFAIR TRANSIT

FEES ON IRAQI OIL FOLLOWING 1972 NATIONALIZATION, OBSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT GOODS FROM LEBANON, AND FOSTERING SUBVERSIVE FACTIONS HOSTILE TO IRAQ, ALL AIMED AT WEAKENING PROGRESSIVE REGIME IN IRAQ.

3. COMMENT: VERY LOW WATER IN EUPHRATES CONFIRMED BY EXPERIENCED AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGIST WHO IS MAKING SURVEY IN SOUTHERN IRAQ. ANGER OF REGIME AGAINST SYRIA FOR THIS AND OTHER WELL KNOWN REASONS IS ALL THE GREATER SINCE IT CANNOT FIND WAY TO STRIKE BACK OR PRESSURE SYRIA TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO ITS INTERESTS. LOWRIE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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